

**Regular Council Meeting  
May 23, 2013**

**I. Meeting Called to Order**

Mayor Marse called to order the regularly scheduled council meeting of May 23, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Mayor J.M. Marse, Council members Elizabeth Brannon, Ray Jackson, Earl King, Charlie Simmons and Harold Taunton. Staff present: City Attorney Clay Adkinson, Parks Director Shane Supple, Lead Water Operator Ben Lewis, Lead Wastewater Operator Robert Fawcett, City Planner Latilda Hughes and City Clerk Robin Haynes. Anna Hudson was present representing Preble-Rish.

**II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Marse introduced Mr. Steve Yeager, the new Director of the Walton County Economic Development Alliance and welcomed him aboard.

**III. Approval of past minutes**

No minutes were presented.

**1. Planning Issues**

No items were presented.

**2. Legal Matters**

No legal items were presented.

**3. Fire Department Report**

No report was given.

**4. Parks Department Report**

**A. Batting cage proposal**

Councilman Simmons and Shane Supple updated council on the progress of the batting cages. Materials, including cement slab and roofing materials should all come in under \$11,000.00 but the main issue is with power. To construct the cages in the area between the ball field and the playground as discussed, power will have to be brought over from across the parking lot and an electrical panel installed. After short discussion, Councilman Taunton motioned to approve constructing the batting cages, not to exceed \$11,000.00, with a proposal for the power cost to be brought back at a later time, Councilman Simmons seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0. Councilman King also stated that Councilman Simmons could bring turf information back at that time as well.

## **B. Dirt hauling for proposed ball fields**

Mr. Jay Odom has confirmed his approval of the City's use of his fill dirt to spread over the proposed practice ball fields. Councilman King had spoken with and received a price for hauling and spreading the dirt, but it was contingent upon being able to drive through the Hammock Bay development, rather than driving around it. After short discussion, Shane Supple was directed to check on the use of a service road that runs behind the development and into the park, and report back to council at a later date.

## **5. Engineering report**

There was no engineer's report given.

Councilman King motioned to approve a resolution authorizing Cliff Knauer, as engineer for the City of Freeport, to apply for a Florida Boating Improvements Program (FBIP) grant, Councilman Jackson seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0. Resolution #2013-01 was adopted.

## **IV. Old Business**

### **1. Calypso Cove sewer fees**

Clerk Haynes informed council she and Anna Hudson have confirmed the number of RV sites on premises and have agreed to the balance of the fees remaining due to the City as equivalent to 3.172 ERU's or \$22,204.00. Representatives for the development agreed with the City's calculations. Councilman Jackson motioned to approve Calypso Cove proceeding with their sewer installation upon payment of fees, Councilman Simmons seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

### **2. Regional Utilities termination of addendum 1 (City's annual option)**

Clerk Haynes presented a copy of the termination of the City's addendum 1 (annual option payment) to council. Since the agreement was actually with Walton County, no action was required unless there was a question or problem with it from the council. No comment was made. No action taken.

### **3. Sewer connection program (outside City limits)**

Clerk Haynes presented a proposed sewer connection program which would reduce the outside of City limits customers sewer connection fees to \$2,000.00 and give them a year to connect. After the year's time, the City would enforce the Florida statute #381.00655, enabling the City to charge a sewer bill, whether the customer was connected or not. Clerk Haynes commented that she had received confirmation of assistance to enforce the statute by the Health Department. Discussion items included:

- Reluctance of council to force connection.
- City would be unable to pay Walton County per connection, as our loan agreement states, with this reduced rate.

- Sewer system designed and built for use that is not currently being utilized.
- Assistance from Walton County regarding the outstanding loan.
- Current costs being prohibitive for customer connection.
- Whether or not customers would connect, even at the reduced rate.

Clerk Haynes asked if this proposal could be brought back to the City council at a later date and was told it needed to wait until after the workshop with the County. Councilman Jackson motioned to table the item, Councilwoman Brannon seconded. Area resident Mike Standley commented briefly about the cost being high, he felt the proposal had some merit and offered to assist the Council in any way he could. There was no additional public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

## **V. New Business**

### **1. Acceptance of annual financial audit f/y ending 9/30/12**

Councilman Taunton motioned to approve the acceptance of the annual financial audit for fiscal year ending 9/30/12 as presented, Councilman King seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

### **2. Employee sick leave donation**

Clerk Haynes presented a request on behalf of staff, for a one-time opportunity for City staff to donate or transfer, sick leave to an employee that has used all available accrued time. Discussion items included:

- FMLA allows the employee to take unpaid leave with the health insurance being paid by the City up to 12 weeks. The employee has not requested to be placed on leave.
- Some council members did not like placing a cap or maximum on the transfer of time – either from the person receiving the time, or the person donating the time.
- Because there is not an established policy, any additional request would have to come before the council, on a case by case basis.
- Why staff would consider placing a cap on time, if other staff were volunteering to donate anyway.
- Length of time to donate for employee, possibly maximum time employee can receive.
- Employee requesting time, in this instance, was only requesting a couple of weeks, hoping to be back to work within that time.

Councilman Jackson motioned to approve the one time transfer of sick time, up to one month if there is enough time donated for the employee, Councilman King seconded. Further discussion items included:

- Councilman Simmons mentioned that he opposed the cap limitation.
- Councilman King stated he wanted to cover the amount of time being requested at this time and Council could re-address at any time, with policy being set later.
- Attorney Adkinson reiterated that the employee donating time was not being “capped”, the cap was being set on the employee receiving the time. He stated that because there was no policy authorizing the transfer, the council would have to approve it before it could be done.

- The personnel policy does not address donating defined benefits, therefore it is prohibited until Council approves it.
- Councilman Taunton mentioned he would like employee input into a policy.
- There was short discussion regarding the benefits of a “pool”.
- Attorney Adkinson cautioned that all time being transferred needed to be carefully documented.

There was no additional public or council discussion, the motion carried 3:2 (Simmons and Brannon opposed).

Councilwoman Brannon requested a workshop be scheduled to discuss personnel issues related to donation of time. Council agreed to schedule the workshop for Tuesday, June 4, 2013 at 7:00 pm. Councilman Simmons requested staff attend for input into the policy.

Councilwoman Brannon commented for the record that she was totally for donating time to that employee without the cap.

### **3. Pay all bills in order**

Councilman Taunton motioned to pay all bills in order, Councilman Jackson seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

## **VI. Council Business Not On Agenda**

Councilman Jackson asked to add the sewer discussion to the scheduled workshop for June 4.

Councilman Taunton commented on items from the last meeting – City receiving NWFLC Community of Excellence Award, and representative from the Calypso RV Park agreeing to donate \$5,000.00 for the use in building the batting cages.

## **VII. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

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J.M. Marse, Mayor

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Robin Haynes, City Clerk

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Earl King, Council President